

## **REMARKS**

The present claim amendments are responsive to the Examiner's concerns noted in the Office Action.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12-19.

### **Summary of the Response**

Figs. 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10-14 have been amended. Claim 3-8 have been canceled. Claims 20-24 have been added. Claims 1, 2 and 9-24 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

### **Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102**

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the Applicant's own admitted prior art. This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the claims as amended.

Claim 1 as amended recites: "a voltage dropping circuit dropping voltages on a first node located between said first input portion and said first output portion and a second node located between said second input portion and said second output portion before changing from a state in which said first input portion is disconnected from said first node to a state in which said first

input portion is connected to said first node”. AAPA does not disclose any structure that corresponds to such voltage dropping circuit.

The recited voltage dropping circuit is supported in the specification, for example in reference to Fig. 4. The TFT 5 and 6 are turned on during time  $t_a$ - $t_2$  and the TFT 2 and 3 are turned on during time  $t_2$ - $t_3$ . Namely, the TFT 5 and 6 are turned on before the input portions In1 and In2 are connected to nodes N1 and N2 respectively. Further, when the TFT 5 and 6 are turned on, the nodes N1 and N2 are connected to the low power voltage supply 22 generating a low power supply voltage  $V_{s\_low}$ . Hence, the voltages on the nodes N1 and N2 are both dropped by the low power supply voltage  $V_{s\_low}$  before changing from a state in which first input portion is disconnected from first node to a state in which said first input portion is connected to first node.

The AAPA noted in section [0006] of the specification states:

“Assuming that the input signals Si1 and Si2 are the low input voltage  $V_{i\_low}$  and the high input voltage  $V_{i\_high}$ , respectively, during a period from an instant t1 to an instant t4. Further, assuming that, during a period from the instant t1 to an instant t2, the TFTs 2 and 3 are opened state and the TFT 4 is closed state, and that the high voltage power supply 21 is connected to a node N1 through the TFT 4 and an inverter 12 and the low voltage power supply 22 is connected to a node N2 through an inverter 11 (That is, assuming that an output signal So1 has the high power supply voltage  $V_{s\_high}$  as the high output voltage  $V_{o\_high}$ , and that an output signal So2 has the low power supply voltage  $V_{s\_low}$  as the low output voltage  $V_{o\_low}$ )”.

Accordingly, AAPA teaches that ***the node N1 is connected to the high voltage power supply 21 through TFT 4*** and inverter 12 and the node N2 is connected to the low voltage power supply 22 through an inverter 11, during time  $t_0$ - $t_2$ . Further, the TFT 2 and 3 are turned on at

time  $t_3$  to connect input portions In1 and In2 to nodes N1 and N2 respectively. Namely, the *node N1 is not dropped before* input portion In1 is connected to node N1 before time  $t_3$ . Thus, AAPA does not teach or disclose *the voltages on the nodes N1 and N2 are both dropped* by voltage dropping circuit (e.g., TFT 5 and 6 in the disclosed embodiment) before changing from a state in which first input portion is disconnected from first node to a state in which said first input portion is connected to first node. As AAPA does not disclose that voltage dropping circuit drops the voltages on the nodes N1 and N2 before changing from a state in which first input portion is disconnected from first node to a state in which said first input portion is connected to first node, as claimed in amended independent claim 1 of the present application, AAPA cannot be deemed to anticipate claim 1.

New claims 20-24 have been added to depend upon claim 1, to round out the coverage of the patentable aspects of the present invention. Claims 20-24 are therefore likewise patentable over AAPA for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1. Further, dependent claims 20-24 include limitations that further distinguish from AAPA.

Independent claim 2 as amended recites: “a first voltage dropping circuit dropping a voltage on a first node located between said first input portion and said first output portion before changing from a state in which said first input portion is disconnected from said first node to a state in which said first input portion is connected to said first node; and a second voltage dropping circuit dropping a voltage on a second node located between said second input portion and said second output portion before changing from a state in which said second input portion is disconnected from said

second node to a state in which said second input portion is connected to said second node.”

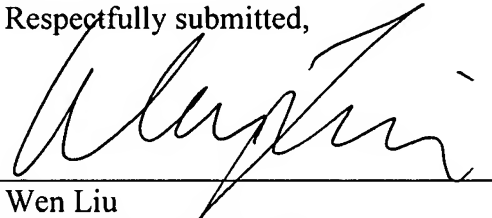
For similar reasons present above with respect to claim 1, AAPA does not disclose the recited first and second voltage dropping circuits recited in amended independent claim 2 of the present application. All the dependent claims 9-19 are therefore likewise patentable over AAPA for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 2. Further, dependent claims 9-19 include limitations that further distinguish from AAPA.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

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Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:  
Two Replacement Sheets  
Two Annotated Replacement Sheets